

BIOGRAPHIES

HON. ABBY ABINANTI, a commissioner in the Unified Family Court, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, since 1994. Prior to her appointment she worked extensively in Indian Law both in Tribal Courts and state courts, litigating pre and post Indian Child Welfare Act dependency cases. Currently she is working in an editorial capacity with the Tribal Legal Studies Textbook Series being published by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

MR. JERRY ALLEN, LMFT, MPH, is a licensed marriage and family therapist who supervises a family reunification unit of social workers with Sonoma County Human Services Department, and serves as the department's ICWA liaison. Mr. Allen is involved in efforts to upgrade awareness and compliance with ICWA and bring about greater collaboration between Sonoma County Children's Protective Services and Indian tribes. He received a bachelor's in anthropology and a Masters in public health from U.C. Berkeley and a Masters in counseling psychology from California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Mr. Allen has Shawnee and Powhatan ancestry.

MS. SOMA DE BOURBON is a PhD student at UC Santa Cruz in the History of Consciousness Department. She is doing her PhD on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Ms. de Bourbon is Blackfeet Indian and received her BA in Native American Studies from UC Berkeley. For the past three years she has headed the Native Research Cluster at UC Santa Cruz and is also active in the Women of Color Cluster. She has a five year old daughter who lives with her in Santa Cruz. Ms. de Bourbon is dedicated to working on issues that impact Native American Communities.

MS. ELIZABETH ELGIN DEROUEN is an enrolled member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians of Sonoma County, California, and a descendent of the Manchester/Point Arena, Kashaya Stewarts Point, and Graton Tribes. She is a mother of three daughters ages 15, 20, and 22. She is a traditional singer, dancer, and active educator on Indian parenting and holistic wellness in the community. She is a graduate of Santa Rosa Junior College and received an AS in Administration of Justice. She is also a graduate of the Court Reporting Program at Empire Business College. She is currently pursuing ongoing education at Sonoma State University.

She has served both as Chairwoman and Board Member at Ya-Ka-Ama (Indian Education Development, Inc.); Multi-Cultural Community Center (Sonoma County); Chairwoman of the Northern Judicial District-CNIGA steering committee and Tribal Spokesperson for "No on 68" state gaming initiative, and National ICWA trainer and current Board Member of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (National Indian Justice Center). She is the former two-term Chairwoman of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Board of Directors and Chairwoman of the River Rock Casino Entertainment Authority Board of Directors (2000-04).

In addition to the above, she has remained a full-time Indian Child Welfare Act Advocate serving a seven-tribe ICWA Consortium covering Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma

Counties since 1994. She is a current committee participant in Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma County ICWA Roundtable forums, a qualified Expert Witness on the ICWA in numerous counties, Tribal/State ICWA Compliance Workgroup member, California Nations Indian Gaming Association Legislative Committee member, Cultural Committee and Education Committee member at Dry Creek Rancheria, and a Tribal Spokesperson for Senate Bill 678. She remains passionate about preserving tribal customs and traditions while furthering understanding of self-determination of Tribal governments through education and training.

MR. JERRY GARDNER (Cherokee) is an attorney with more than 25 years of experience working with Indian tribes, tribal court systems, and victims of crime in Indian country. He is the Executive Director of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute - an Indian owned and operated non-profit corporation organized to design and deliver education, research, training, and technical assistance programs which promote the improvement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the UCLA School of Law and an Appellate Court Judge for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota. He was an Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall) from 1995-2000 and Administrator for the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) from May 1998-December 2000. He served as the Senior Staff Attorney with the National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) from NIJC's establishment in 1983 until December 1996. He has also worked for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1978-1979 (during the period in which ICWA was enacted), the national office of the Legal Services Corporation, and the American Indian Lawyer Training Program.

He is also responsible for the overall design and development of the Tribal Court Clearinghouse (www.tribal-institute.org) - a comprehensive website that serves as a resource for tribal courts, victims services providers, and others involved in the improvement of justice in Indian country. The Tribal Court Clearinghouse provides extensive information and resources concerning tribal courts and other issues related to the improvement of justice in Indian country. It also provides extensive links to additional information that will facilitate tribal justice utilization of technological innovations and the vast information available on the Internet. The Clearinghouse includes a specific page on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and many other resources related to ICWA.

HON. ROBERT HUTSON was appointed to the North Orange County Judicial District (Municipal Court) by Governor Jerry Brown in 1982. In 1989 he was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court by Governor Deukmejian. Since 2000, Judge Hutson has held the position of Presiding Judge of the Orange County Juvenile Court and holds the record for the longest assignment as Juvenile Court Presiding Judge in Orange County. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he worked at Western Electric Corporation in Los Angeles, then as a deputy Public Defender in Orange County.

MR. SEPRIEONO LOCARIO is of Navajo (Dine) and Sicilian descent. He is a registered member of the Navajo Nation and a product of assimilation. Mr. Locario was born and raised in San Francisco and currently lives in the outskirts of the Tenderloin District. He spent his summers on the Navajo reservation with his family near Tohatchi, New Mexico. Mr. Locario would not consider himself a traditionalist, but is very informed of his cultural ways and does his best to live a positive Navajo way of life. He is also an alumni from San Diego State University, and attained a Masters in Counseling Psychology at California School of Professional Psychology. He has worked with Native American youth for over seven years. He worked with the Juvenile Justice system in San Diego for two years with youth of all levels of incarceration. Mr. Locario currently works at the Native American Health Center, Family & Child Guidance Clinic in Oakland, California, as Project Director/Counselor developing resources and inner city programs for urban Native youth.

MS. S. WYETH MCADAM is a staff attorney at California Indian Legal Services (CILS). Ms. McAdam graduated from Hampshire College in 1993 and Northeastern University School of Law in 2000. She is licensed to practice law in California and Massachusetts. Prior to coming to CILS, Ms. McAdam clerked for the Honorable Kenneth Laurence of the Massachusetts Appeals Court and served as a public defender in Springfield, Massachusetts. Her commitment to providing exceptional legal services to the poor began prior to law school when she worked as a paralegal at the Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division in Brooklyn, New York. She coordinated the ACORN project located at the CILS central office in Oakland, serving indigent Indian communities in California. Currently she represents Indian families, Tribes and Tribal organizations as an Indian rights advocate on a variety of matters including cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act, preserving Indian land and advocating for Indian religious freedom rights. She also acts as a resource for Tribal child welfare representatives in California. Ms. McAdam has been an active member of the National Lawyers Guild for years and serves on its board as national Vice President.

MS. RAQUELLE MYERS is a member of the Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of California at Berkeley and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah. She serves as Staff Attorney for the National Indian Justice Center and as the Chief Judge/Administrator for the Intertribal Court of California, a court of limited jurisdiction currently being developed in Northern California. She is a member of the National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and a member of the California Judicial Council's Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias. She also serves on the CDSS Tribal Government Advisory Committee. Raquelle serves as a trainer for NIJC regional and on-site training sessions developed for tribal government personnel. She also teaches undergraduate courses on Federal Indian Law, California Indian History, Tribal Government at the University of California at Berkeley.

MR. ORLANDO NAKAI, Clinical Director, (Navajo) Mr. Nakai has been employed with the Friendship House for 10 years. He has gained years of clinical knowledge and experience in daily interactions with the American Indian population. Mr. Nakai's strong

compassion and commitment to American Indian men and women is one of his best attributes. His clinical experience includes determining the eligibility and the appropriate length and intensity of treatment of individuals screened. Mr. Nakai reviews all clinical files and monitors contracts to ensure that all levels of treatment are culturally appropriate. He has facilitated cultural competency training for the State of California for the Department of Mental Health and Social Services in Sacramento. Additionally, Mr. Nakai has facilitated workshops at National Conferences on Methamphetamine Treatment and on the Red Road to Recovery, which is the cultural aspect of residential treatment at the Friendship House.

MS. LYDIA ROCHFORD has been working with American Indian families, doing case management, counseling, intervention, and court advocacy for more than ten years. A descendent of the Tohono O'odam tribe, she has worked with several generations of Kumeyaay families as a staff member of Southern Indian Health Council's Indian Child Social Services, and, for the last five years, as Director. Among Lydia's current projects, she is developing a Supervised Visitation Program, thanks to a grant from the OJP's Office on Violence Against Women. She is also developing a Safe and Bright Futures for Native American Children Program, thanks to the DHHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and other collaborating agencies.

MS. ANNE SMITH has worked at the California Department of Social Services in many capacities for over 30 years. She has worked as a trainer, in foster care, and is currently the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialist in the children's services arena. As the ICWA Specialist, Anne provides technical assistance to and is a resource for Indian families, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and county child welfare and probation agencies regarding the implementation of and compliance with the Act. Anne's vast expertise and knowledge provides support to Indian children and their families.

HON. SHERRI SOBEL, a referee in the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, has worked in children's law for 18 years. As an attorney, she represented families in juvenile court, Courts of Appeal, and special education hearings in state and federal courts. She has written, lectured, and trained attorneys and bench officers in San Diego and Los Angeles and spoken across the country. She is a trained neutral and has been a special-education mediator for the state of California. She is most proud of her children, Ian and Abby.

MR. DANA J. STITS graduated from UCLA and Stanford Law School. After four years of private practice, he joined the Orange County County Counsel's Office. Over the course of the last nine years he has divided his time equally between the dependency trial team and the dependency appellate team.

HON. WILLIAM THORNE is a Pomo Indian from northern California. He received a B.A. from the University of Santa Clara in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford University in 1977. He has served as a tribal court judge in Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Michigan on a part-time basis for 25

years. For 14 years he served as a full-time state trial judge. In May of 2000 Judge Thorne was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals.

He is currently president of the National Indian Justice Center, chair of the Racial & Ethnic Fairness Commission for the State of Utah, and chair of the Judicial Council's Technology Committee. In addition he is a member of the Executive Committee for the Board of Directors for National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization that provides volunteers to represent abused and neglected children in court, a member of the Board of Directors for the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), and a member of the Board of Directors for the Evan B Donaldson Adoption Institute, an organization that seeks to improve the level of research and practice related to adoptions and a member of the PEW Commission on Children in Foster Care. Judge Thorne also serves on Utah Judicial Council's education committee and is a member of the Court Improvement Project for Utah's juvenile courts.

He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the National Indian Court Judge's Association (the national tribal judge's group), a former member of the Utah Judicial Council (Utah's governing organization for the state judiciary), formerly co-chair of the Judicial Council's Committee on Improving Jury Service and a former member of the ABA's Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children.

MS. JENNIFER WALTER is supervising attorney of Juvenile Projects for the Center for Families, Children & the Courts at Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Before joining the AOC in 1995, she was directing attorney of Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, a nonprofit law office in San Jose. There she provided direct legal services to children and youth in a variety of legal proceedings. After graduating from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1988, Ms. Walter became staff attorney at Legal Services for Children in San Francisco. Ms. Walter was admitted to the California State Bar in 1988 and received her bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1982. Ms. Walter is a member of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. She lives with her domestic partner and their daughter in Half Moon Bay.

HON. DENISE WHITEHEAD was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court by Governor Davis in November 2001. She has served as the presiding judge of the juvenile delinquency division since July 2004.

Judge Whitehead formerly was a partner in the firm of Ophelia and Whitehead. Prior to that, she served as a Fresno Superior Court Commissioner from 1992 to 2000, where she heard a variety of cases including family law, criminal, and delinquency and dependency proceedings.

As a commissioner, Judge Whitehead helped jumpstart a number of innovative programs including the Court Appointed Special Advocates and the Keep Kids in School-Truancy Prevention Project. Judge Whitehead currently is in the process of establishing a juvenile delinquency mental health court and has established the Juvenile Justice Mental Health

Collaborative. In addition to her experience on the bench, Judge Whitehead was a staff attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal in Fresno. She also served as a research attorney for the Supreme Court of California.

Judge Whitehead earned her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from California State University, Fresno and her law degree magna cum laude from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

MS. ROSETTA CAROL WHITE MOUNTAIN, MSSW is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation of Fort Yates North Dakota. She is an adult adoptee, adoptive parent, and licensed foster parent. She holds a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

Ms. White Mountain has over 25 years experience in the field of Indian Child Welfare and 20 years experience in the public child welfare system in San Francisco County. She provides vertical case management services (intake through permanency planning or dismissal) to Native families in San Francisco.

Ms. White Mountain also runs a private training and consultation business that provides training to tribal and state child welfare workers, attorneys, and judges. She has experience in ICWA expert witness testimony, assessment, and evaluation.

MS. CHRISTINE WILLIAMS, an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe, received her law degree and Indian Law Certificate from Arizona State University College of Law in 2000 after completing her undergraduate studies at UCLA in 1996. Since then, Ms. Williams was employed in the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Child Support Enforcement Department. Due to her commitment to practicing Indian law, Ms. Williams entered private practice and has had the opportunity to represent tribes in a variety of Indian Law issues including housing, gaming, legislation, litigation, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and the development and review of tribal codes and resolutions. This legal background has provided Ms. Williams the opportunity to give back to her tribal community by representing her own village in litigation designed to ensure the preservation and protection of her village's sacred site and burial ground.

MS. JOANNE WILLIS NEWTON, Senior Staff Attorney, joined California Indian Legal Services in 1998 after completing her Master of Laws in Comparative Law at the University of San Diego. Before moving to San Diego, Joanne lived in Canada for thirteen years, where she attended the University of Ottawa and received a B.Sc. in Biology in 1988, a B.A. in Psychology in 1989 and a LL.B. in 1992. After graduating from law school, she articulated with the Canadian Department of Justice for one year, including six months with the Human Rights Law Section and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Legal Services. Subsequently, as a member of the Ontario and Quebec Bars, she worked on Native Law issues for several years as a consultant to a number of Aboriginal organizations and the federal government. Since joining CILS, Joanne has served the Indian community on a range of Indian law issues,

including cultural resource protection, education rights, gaming, civil litigation, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. She is devoted to providing community legal education and has presented trainings on topics such as Public Law 280, tribal sovereignty, gaming regulation, cultural resource protection, and the ICWA. Joanne and her two daughters are members of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, located in northern Quebec, Canada.